

G. Elliot on a cat described by Dr. Gray in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1867 as *Felis pardinoides* from India, which Mr. Elliot considered to be identical with *Felis Geoffroyi* of South America." If Mr. Selater had referred to page 400 of the 'Proceedings' above quoted, he would have found that the specimen there described was received from the museum of the Zoological Society, marked as having been brought from "India by Capt. Innes." So if there be any mistake as to the habitat, the Society is responsible. It is curious that *Felis Geoffroyi* is said to be the same as *F. pardinoides* and *Pardalina Warwicki*, which have very different skulls.

*Discovery of a remarkable Fossil Bird.* By Prof. O. C. MARSH\*.

One of the treasures secured during our explorations this year was the greater portion of the skeleton of a large fossil bird, at least five feet in height, which I was fortunate enough to discover in the Upper Cretaceous of Western Kansas. This interesting specimen, although a true bird (as is clearly shown by the vertebræ and some other parts of the skeleton), differs widely from any known recent or extinct form of that class, and affords a fine example of a comprehensive type. The bones are all well preserved. The femur is very short; but the other portions of the legs are quite elongated. The metatarsal bones appear to have been separated. On my return, I shall fully describe this unique fossil under the name *Hesperornis regalis*.—*Silliman's American Journal*, Jan. 1872.

*Pigs of the Society Islands.*

"Down by the sea [at Tahiti] was an enormous yard full of pigs, and such pigs! of all sizes, from a Guinea-pig to a Shetland pony—of all colours, from a zebra to a negro. And as for shape, they were thin where they ought to be fat, long where they ought to be short, more like great wedges with the sharp end uppermost than any thing else I can think of. Such gaunt horrible monsters were never beheld; the scene was like the nightmare of a dyspeptic farmer.

"The pigs [of Huahine] presented to us turn out to be hideous little animals of some aboriginal breed, at least one third head, and very ugly head too. They gave one the general impression of having been squeezed from their youth up between two tight boards. And their manner corresponded with their appearance: wickeder pork, for its age, I never saw alive. When Stevedore Mitchell civilly offered one a banana, it flew at him and barked like a dog, to his no small discomfiture. Then it dropped on its fore knees, and seemed for some time to be wrapped in religious contemplation. After fortifying its soul with prayer, it quite suddenly, and quite

\* From a letter to Professor Dana, dated San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 29th, 1871.